



NEWSLETTER

SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF THE MILITARY



70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE KOREAN WAR

For many, the Korean War, a three-year fight against the spread of communism in Eastern Asia, is referred to as the "Forgotten War," but not in South Dakota.

"Let us collectively remember and honor our Korean War heroes who gave their all to protect the freedoms that we hold dear," said Greg Whitlock, Secretary of the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs. "They faced difficult circumstances and demonstrated incredible bravery and determination seemingly against all odds."

The Korean War began June 25, 1950, when thousands of North Korean soldiers invaded South Korea. Fighting did not cease until July 27, 1953, when the Korean Armistice Agreement was signed, separating North and South Korea and allowing the return of prisoners. A peace treaty was never signed.

The Forgotten War is believed to have been one of the most destructive modern conflicts, claiming about three million war fatalities.

South Dakota deployed over 26,000 service members and 174 of them died in that effort.

"Let us ensure that future generations remember and honor the pride and dedication of those who served, the legacy they continued, and the freedom they preserved," said Whitlock.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Voc Rehab.....	2
Veterans Housing.....	3
Day of Giving.....	3
New Laws	4
Midwest Honor Flight	5
VA Emergency Care	6
State Veterans Cemetery	8
Upcoming Events.....	9

VA'S VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AND EMPLOYMENT SERVICE SIGNALS TRANSFORMATION THROUGH READINESS

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) [Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment \(VR&E\)](#) service announced it's changing its name to Veteran Readiness and Employment Service to better reflect the needs of veterans.

The new name, which includes readiness, is more in line with what service members and veterans already understand from their military service.

"The new name puts an emphasis on the veteran and the department's mission to help them reach their employment goals," said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. "The service will also maintain the VR&E abbreviation allowing it to remain identifiable."



The process of renaming the program began with a comprehensive Human-Centered Design (HCD) research effort to better understand the program's strengths, pain points and opportunities to increase program awareness and enhance the delivery of VR&E services. Data collection activities and infor-

mation sessions were held with veterans, service members, VR&E employees and veterans service officers at the various stages of the HCD research process. VR&E learned that confusion and stigma around the former program name deterred some potential program participants from seeking services.

VR&E provides benefits and services that enable transitioning service members and veterans with [service-connected disabilities](#) and an employment barrier, to prepare for, obtain and maintain suitable employment, and to the maximum extent possible, achieve independence in daily living.

VETERANS HOUSING REHABILITATION AND MODIFICATION PILOT PROGRAM

HUD, in partnership with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, announces \$9.4 Million in grant funding to modify or rehabilitate eligible veterans' primary residences. Eligible applicants for the Veterans Housing Rehabilitation and Modification Pilot Program are nonprofit organizations that provide nationwide or statewide programs that primarily serve veterans or low-income individuals.

For more information, view the [NOFA on Grants.gov](#).

For more information, contact HUD's Office of Rural Housing and Economic Development – Jovette Gadson at 877-787-2526 or jovette.g.gadson@hud.gov.

The [Rural Gateway](#) provides technical assistance, trainings, and peer learning and resource sharing to support rural housing and economic development.

Closing Date for Applications: August 18, 2020.

BARREL HOUSE DAY OF GIVING TO BENEFIT MIDWEST HONOR FLIGHT

Monday, August 24, 2020, has been selected as the "Barrel House Day of Giving." Barrel House will donate ten percent of total sales for the day to Midwest Honor Flight to support veterans on their missions.

The Barrel House is located in Sioux Falls, SD at 4701 East 54th Street.



NEW LAWS TO BENEFIT SOUTH DAKOTA VETERANS

Veterans in South Dakota will have access to improved education benefits beginning July 1 thanks to the passage of House Bill 1069 during the 2020 legislative session.

“Many skills military service members acquire translate well into the technical trades,” said Greg Whitlock, Secretary of the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs. “HB 1069 helps veterans continue their education, tuition free, at one of South Dakota’s technical colleges.”

Veterans wishing to use this benefit are encouraged to visit with the technical colleges school certifying officials.

Additional law changes include lowering the threshold requirements for disabled veterans’ participation in special group pheasant hunts from 40% service-connected or higher to 20% service-connected and higher.

Also, as part of an ongoing red tape review, the South Dakota Veterans Commission was determined archaic and all statutes pertaining to the Commission were repealed.

“Now, more than ever, we need to keep our sleeves rolled up and work collectively to ensure our veterans have a successful journey as they transition into civilian

life,” said Whitlock. “South Dakota has a legacy of supporting those who have sacrificed and served our country. We are proud of this history and the partners that have shared in our success.”

Whitlock encourages veterans to contact their local county or tribal veterans service officers or the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs office (605-773-3269) to learn more about these changes and their benefits.



2020 HANGAR DANCE TO SUPPORT MIDWEST HONOR FLIGHT

The vintage singing trio, “The Beverly Belles,” will perform in concert in Sioux Falls at the third annual Midwest Honor Flight Hangar Dance! Dance lessons, cash bar, silent auction, and great entertainment! Get your tickets soon because you won’t want to miss this event to honor our heroes!

The event will be held Saturday, October 3, 2020, at the South Dakota Military Heritage Alliance located at 1600 W Russell St; Sioux Falls. Tickets go on sale July 15th.

The Beverly Belles’ “Victory Showtime” concert will feature popular tunes from the 1930s, 1940s and 1950s in the tradition of the Andrews Sisters, with voices and harmonies, choreography and banter.

Sponsors for the event include: South Dakota Military Heritage Alliance, CorTrust Bank, and the Sioux Falls Sheraton.



Visit www.midwesthonorflight.org/dance for tickets or additional information. You can also contact their hotline at (605)215-1319, ext 8 to reserve a ticket (\$30 in advance, \$40 at the door).

Fact Sheet

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
Office of Community Care

VA Community Emergency Care Provider Notification

In most instances, Veterans are eligible to receive Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)-authorized emergency care at an in-network facility if VA is notified of the emergent event within 72 hours. Veterans do not need to check with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) before calling for an ambulance or going to an emergency department. During a medical emergency, VA encourages all Veterans to seek immediate medical attention without delay. It is, however, important for providers to promptly notify VA within 72 hours of a Veteran presenting to the emergency department.

Effective June 8, 2020, VA established a national centralized notification center to simplify the emergency care notification process.

The Emergency Care Centralized Notification Center allows community providers, Veterans and representatives to report instances of a Veteran presenting to a community emergency department. It offers simplified access to VA for care coordination, eligibility determination and payment authorization information. Centralized notification standardizes communication, documentation and collaboration between VA and community providers.

General Information

Providers should report instances of a Veteran presenting to a community emergency department to VA within 72 hours of the start of emergent care. It is important to notify VA within 72 hours because it allows VA to assist in coordinating care or transfer to a VA medical center. This helps ensure that administrative and clinical requirements for VA to pay for the care are met. Failure to report in a timely manner may impact a Veteran's eligibility for VA to cover the cost of emergency treatment. For each notification the treating facility will receive authorization or eligibility information and, if applicable, direction for claim submittal.

Notification Requirements

Providers may use either of the following centralized options to notify VA with details about Veterans receiving emergent care in the community:

1. Email: VHAEmergencyNotification@va.gov
2. Phone: 844-72HRVHA (844-724-7842)

If notification is made to a local VA medical facility, the notification will be referred to centralized intake for action.

Case-specific details are necessary for care coordination and eligibility determinations and will be requested during notification. The person notifying VA should be prepared to supply case specific information detailed in VA Form 10-10143g, Non-VA Hospital Emergency Notification – available online at https://www.va.gov/vaforms/medical/pdf/10-10143g_Non-VA_Hospital_Emergency_Notification_Fill.pdf – when calling or emailing notification. If the person notifying the VA is unable to supply all information, VA will contact the appropriate parties to collect the information.

For additional information, including information about care coordination, eligibility, documentation claims and payment, please visit: www.va.gov/COMMUNITYCARE/providers/info_EmergencyCare.asp.

Resources

VA Form 10-10143g (https://www.va.gov/vaforms/medical/pdf/10-10143g_Non-VA_Hospital_Emergency_Notification_Fill.pdf).

Fact Sheet

VA

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
Office of Community Care

VA Community Emergency Care Information for Veterans

In most instances, Veterans are eligible to receive Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)-authorized emergency care at an in-network facility if VA is notified of the emergent event within 72 hours. The VA medical center (VAMC) nearest to a Veteran's emergent event can identify in-network emergency care providers.

Veterans do not need to check with VA before going to an emergency department in the community or calling an ambulance. During a medical emergency, VA encourages all Veterans to seek immediate medical attention without delay.

To simplify and streamline this emergency care notification process, VA established a national emergency care contact center.

The Emergency Care Centralized Notification Center allows community providers to report instances of a Veteran presenting to a community emergency department. It offers simplified access to VA for care coordination, eligibility determination and payment authorization information. Centralized notification standardizes communication, documentation and collaboration between VA and community providers.

General Information

VA should be notified within 72 hours of the start of an emergent event that a Veteran has sought emergency care at an in-network facility. This notification ensures VA can authorize the care. This step also assists VA in coordinating the Veteran's transfer to a VAMC and additional care, and ensures that the requirements for VA to pay for the care are met.

For each emergent episode of care, treating community providers will receive authorization decision information and, if applicable, directions on how to submit claims. Failure to notify VA of care rendered through an in-network community facility prevents VA from authorizing the emergency treatment and prevents claims and payments from being made through one of VA's third-party administrators.

Notification Requirements

The person notifying VA should be prepared to supply case-specific information, as seen below.

Veteran Information	Treating Facility Information
Name	National Provider Identifier (NPI)
Social Security Number	Name
Date of Birth	Address
Address	Point of Contact (POC) Name
Date Presenting to Facility	POC Phone#
Date of Discharge	POC Email Address
Admitted? (YES/NO)	Note: POC will receive VA authorization decision info
Chief Complaint/Admission DX and/or Discharge DX	

Fact Sheet

VA

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
Office of Community Care

This information is explained in VA Form 10-10143g, Non-VA Hospital Emergency Notification, available online at https://www.va.gov/vaforms/medical/pdf/10-10143g_Non-VA_Hospital_Emergency_Notification_Fill.pdf.

Case-specific details are necessary for care coordination and eligibility determination. If the person notifying VA is unable to supply all necessary information, VA will contact the appropriate parties to collect the information.

Providers should use one of the following centralized options to notify VA with details about Veterans receiving emergent care in the community:

1. Email: VHAEmergencyNotification@va.gov
2. Phone: 844-72HRVHA (844-724-7842)

If notification is made to a local VA medical facility the notification will be referred to the centralized intake for action.

For information about care coordination, documentation submission, eligibility, claims and payment go to: https://www.va.gov/COMMUNITYCARE/providers/info_EmergencyCare.asp.

UPDATE ON STATE VETERANS CEMETERY



Check out the Keloland link below for an update to the construction on the new South Dakota State Veterans Cemetery in Sioux Falls: <https://www.keloland.com/news/eye-on-keloland/state-veterans-cemetery-in-sioux-falls-making-progress/>.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Jul 6—Black Hills National Cemetery Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service—9:00 am (MT)
Jul 10—VABHHCS VSO Congressional Forum—Bldg. 145—Room 108—Fort Meade VAMC—10:00 am (MT)
Jul 22—SD Veterans Council—Military Alliance Building—1600 W. Russell Street—Sioux Falls—9:00 am (CT)
Aug 24-27—SDDVA Annual Benefit School—Ramkota Conference Center—Pierre
Sep 3—Veterans Day at the SD State Fair
Sep 3-7—SD State Fair
Sep 11—VABHHCS VSO Congressional Forum—VFW Post 1273—Rapid City—10:00 am (MT)
Nov 13—VABHHCS VSO Congressional Forum—Domiciliary Auditorium—Hot Springs VAMC—10:00 am (MT)
Dec 1—Governor's State of the Budget Address—1:00 pm (CT)
Jan 12—Governor's State of the State Address—1:00 pm (CT)
Jan 13—SDDVA/SD Veterans Council Legislative Reception

Audry Ricketts, Public Information Officer
South Dakota Department of the Military <http://military.sd.gov>
South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs <http://vetaffairs.sd.gov>
Soldiers and Sailors Building - 425 E Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501
Phone: 605-773-8242
E-mail address: audry.ricketts@state.sd.us

